

1 1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for use in combination with
2 and for preventing unintended disconnection of a generally horizontal beam from a
3 vertical support post, said ~~locking mechanism comprising:~~ post having an array of
4 vertically elongated first openings ~~in said post;~~ and said horizontal beam having an ~~an~~
5 ~~end flange on said beam, said end flange being arranged to overlap said first~~
6 ~~openings;~~ said flange having a front face and a back face, with lugs projecting from a the
7 front face of said flange into said first openings, said beam and said flange being
8 vertically shiftable between a raised position at which said lugs are freely moveable into
9 and out of upper portions of said first openings, and a lowered position at which said lugs
10 are interlocked with said post in lower portions of said first openings; said locking
11 mechanism comprising:

12 a resilient plate;

13 ~~connecting means on opposite sides of a mid-portion of said plate for securing~~
14 said plate to a the back face of said flange, said connecting means comprising tabs on
15 said plate, said tabs being received in and deformed into interlocked engagement within
16 slots in said flange; and

17 a pin projecting from the a mid-portion of said plate through a second opening in
18 said flange above one of said lugs and beyond a the front face of said flange, said plate
19 being resiliently deflectable to accommodate retraction of said pin into said second
20 opening when said lugs are aligned with the upper portions of said first openings, and to
21 urge said pin into the upper portion of one of said first openings when said lugs are
22 shifted to the lower portions of said first openings.

2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism of claim 2 wherein said
2 tabs are movable within said slots to accommodate deflection of said plate relative to said
3 flange.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The locking mechanism, in accordance with claims
2 1 or 3 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ wherein said plate is provided with at least one peripheral
3 deformation configured to coact with ~~the back face of~~ said flange in defining a pocket for
4 receiving a tool used to resiliently deflect the plate in order to withdraw said pin ~~into~~
5 from said ~~access~~ second opening.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The locking mechanism in accordance with claim
2 4 wherein said at least one peripheral deformation is aligned laterally with said pin.